

## CIFFA Committee Meetings – May and June 2024

CIFFA's national committees meet several times a year to discuss relevant issues or developments that may affect member companies. Following is a look at what committee members discussed and decided at their most-recent meetings.

### Airfreight Committee – Chair Bill Gottlieb

- A new **Transport Canada TDG site registration requirement**, effective in October, will require persons who import, offer for transport, handle or transport dangerous goods at a site located in Canada to register in the Client Identification Database (CID) and provide information concerning the dangerous goods and operations being conducted at their respective site(s) located in Canada. The deadline to register is October 25. This is complicated because service providers/forwarders won't necessarily know what they'll be handling in the year ahead or the dimensions of the cargo.
- Willie Walsh, Director General of IATA, said there's a willingness on the part of **IATA to work collaboratively with FIATA** and that the relationship between the organizations has improved. A new air cargo global program is in development.

### Customs Committee – Chair Paul Courtney

- Based on the committee's recommendation, CIFFA will **push the CBSA to make D4 notices mandatory for ground handlers**. D4 notices were presented as an integral part of the eManifest house bill design, so the reluctance to force ground handlers to use D4s is difficult to understand. D4s would not only improve business processes for the ground handlers; they would also end the use of a paper-based process, which was part of the rationale for eManifest.
- With the introduction of **Transport Canada's Pre-load Air Cargo Targeting (PACT)**, to be implemented in the fall, forwarders will provide data to the airlines, in most cases, and the carriers will be responsible for sending it to TC. If the forwarder does not want to disclose house bill information to the airline, the forwarder may elect to submit the data directly to TC, but only with the approval of the airline.
- The **new process to acquire business numbers** is resulting in delays that will affect many CIFFA members. Registration for RM accounts is to be done through the CARM portal, but because of the launch delay, the CBSA has implemented a paper process for registration. Industry has been vocal about the need to revise this interim process.
- With all of the **CARM-related process changes**, there is concern that CBSA officers may need to help SMEs at the border to move goods, diverting them from their health, safety and security work.
- CBSA will calculate **duty and tax in CARM** based on provided information. TCPs will be able to either self-declare or accept CBSA's calculations related to SIMA (anti-dumping and countervailing duty) or surtaxes that may be imposed as retaliatory measures. Accepting CBSA's calculations will presumably reduce the workload for brokers, as the calculations are complicated, and remove the need for audits related to SIMA.
- Regarding **AMPS contravention C378**, CBSA has recently confirmed twice that it is issuing penalties only at post-arrival, a change from last year's discussion, when the agency indicated that penalties would be applied if data was not received at least 24 hours prior to loading. Penalties for contraventions dropped significantly from Q4 2023 to Q1 2024. Currently, getting refunds after successfully challenging penalties is complicated because the refunds are supposed to be managed through the CARM portal. Until R2 is launched, CBSA is issuing cheques for refunds, and they are taking a long time to be processed.

- Those companies required to submit **forced labour reports** were to do so by May 31. For this year at least, insufficient information would not have been an issue, but not filing would have led to a penalty. New legislation is expected to introduce more serious ramifications for filers that don't complete the report with due diligence.

#### **Customs Regulatory Committee – Chair Kim Campbell**

- This committee met in April and June to stay on top of the many issues in its area of focus.
- In February, the CBSA announced a policy change that enables importers to **register in the CARM portal** for up to five days after a shipment is cleared, meaning that customs brokers will not need to take on liability using their business numbers to register clients when cargo is being processed.
- A committee member learned that, in the CARM system, freight forwarders will be identified by two numbers: a partner number and company code. **Access to the portal for forwarders will not be available until R2 is launched.** In the meantime, forwarders can't access account information about debits and credits on their accounts and are not receiving refunds owing.
- With Parliament closed for the summer, it is unlikely that the **review of CARM** by the Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT) will move ahead until at least September.
- The last **CARM meeting of CBSA with trade chain partners** was in March. Given that it is now summer, there may be time for only one more CARM meeting – a last opportunity to learn about the system and raise issues – before the scheduled October launch.
- In items related to **free trade agreements** in CBSA's Forward Regulatory Plan for 2024 to 2026, the agency appears to be increasing its focus on enforcement.

#### **Drayage Committee – Chair Chris Ford**

- On July 16, CIFFA will host a **drayage town hall and dinner in Toronto** to bring together dray operators in the area. Goals are to introduce CIFFA to a wider audience in the dray community and to provide an informative event with relevant speakers.
- The committee has been in **discussions with CPKC** to look at options to enhance operations at the Vaughan terminal.
- The **introduction of RFID tags at Termont** has been problematic. An update at the early May committee meeting indicated that the Quebec Trucking Association refused to buy and start using the new tags. A new proposal was to be made by Termont management. A new reservation system at the terminal reportedly still had some glitches, but it was getting better.

#### **Freight Brokers Committee – Co-Chairs Tim Drake, Gary Nicholson**

- The committee is involved in the development of a **Canadian broker-shipper contract** for use only by CIFFA members.
- A **webinar for members** is being planned on the topic of insurance exclusions and best practices. The committee is also looking to produce a best-practices document on this topic.

### **Seafreight Committee – Chair Martin Schultz**

- The committee discussed the **numerous potential strikes** that might affect Canadian supply chains in the coming months. These included the Port of Montreal, B.C. ports, CN and CPKC, and the CBSA. At the time of the meeting on May 7, CIFFA anticipated that the government would have to legislate at least some of the parties back to work to avoid a complete economic shutdown. Customers looking to freight forwarders for contingency plans would have very limited, expensive options. CIFFA is very active, thanks in large part to its lobbyist's efforts, in communicating with the government through direct channels such as committee meetings. In the event of work stoppages, CIFFA will actively communicate with relevant Canadian ministers about impacts.
- **Dwell time at the Port of Vancouver** showed an overall improvement since the committee met in March. As of early May, both railways had dwell times of 5 to 7 days.

### **Sustainability Committee – Chair Christina Fisker**

- The committee continues to **develop the second report in its sustainability blueprint series**. It will focus on social sustainability.

### **Technology Committee – Chair Marc Bibeau**

- The committee **published a white paper for members focused on AI**. *Unlocking the Potential: An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence* is an introductory guide that highlights the different types of AI, when to use AI, guidelines to achieve desired outcomes and potential challenges to be aware of.
- At a meeting in late June, the committee began to **discuss topics for its next white paper**.

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If you are interested in joining any of the national committees, please send your request to either [admin@ciffa.com](mailto:admin@ciffa.com) or the Regional Chair for your area, whose contact details can be found in the [National Board of Directors listing](#) on the CIFFA website.